

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 and 9-14 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3-4, and 9-11 have been amended herein. Claim 8 is canceled.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 3-7 and 9-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In particular, claims 4 and 9-11 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 4 and 9-11 are now believed allowable. Claims 12-14 are allowable as being dependent on allowable independent claim 11. Likewise, claims 5-7 are allowable as being dependent on allowable independent claim 4.

2. 103(a) Rejections Okuno 6,501,892

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuno et al.(US 6,501,892).

Respectfully, the rejections of claims 1-2 are overcome. In particular, claim 1 is amended to add the limitation that the dispersion slope for the fiber is more negative than -1.5 ps/nm²-km at 1550 nm. Okuno et al. '892 does not teach or suggest a dispersion and slope compensating fiber having such low dispersion slope (less than -1.5 ps/nm²-km at 1550 nm) combined with kappa in the range of 40 to 60 nm at 1550 nm together with the claimed structural features. Accordingly, the 103(a) rejection of claims 1-2 should be withdrawn.

3. 103(a) Rejections Gruner-Nielsen 6,490,398

Claim 8 is rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gruner-Nielsen (US 6,490,398).

Respectfully, claim 8 is canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

4. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims 1-7 and 9-14 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

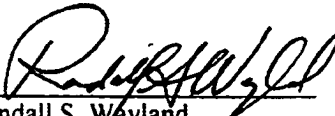


Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at 607-974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED


Randall S. Wayland
Registration No. 36,303
Corning Incorporated
Patent Department
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831

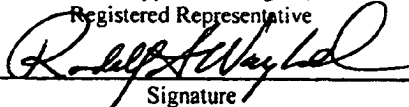
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 2-17-04
Date of Deposit

Randall S. Wayland

Name of applicant, assignee, or
Registered Representative


Signature

2-17-04
Date of Signature